

Outline Presentation Legislature

- Chairman, Members of the Judiciary Committee
- I have been asked to make a short presentation on the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. In 2014, the Council for State Governments prepared a report which formed the basis and framework for Idaho's Justice Reinvestment Initiative.
- This Report noted that "Since 2008, the state's prison population had increased by 10% and is projected to increase another 16% over the next five years from 8,076 people in FY2014 to 9,408 people by FY 2019. Increasing the capacity of the system to absorb the growth over that time period was cost Idaho an estimated \$288 million in operating and construction costs. Frustrated by rising corrections spending and a high rate of recidivism, policymakers came together to identify a more effective path forward.
- That path forward is Idaho's Justice Reinvestment Initiative.
- The Three (3) challenges identified by this study, which became the focus of Idaho's Justice Reinvestment Initiative were: (1) a revolving door syndrome i.e. "the state's supervision and diversion programs were not reducing recidivism; (2) Inefficient use of prison space – a large portion of the prison community was made of people whose supervision was revoked and/or sentenced to a Rider; (3) Inefficient oversight – failure to track outcomes, measure quality and assure reliability of recidivism-reduction strategies.
- A five year plan was implemented with the projected outcomes from this plan, if implemented and followed was: (1) to reduce recidivism by 15%; (2) Reduce Prison population by 1% and (3) Avoid the \$288 million in projected costs.
- However, this outcome recognized the importance and need of **Reinvesting** some of this savings into funding for increasing the # and improving the training PPO, and providing improved and more effective community based treatment services to people on probation and parole supervision who have a higher risk of recidivism.
- I took the opportunity to read Chief Justice Burdick's State of the Judiciary Report to the Legislature. One of the topics he focused on was JRI and he stated that the important concept is REINVESTMENT! He stated that "Reinvestment this year is embodied in the Department's request for twenty-four new probation officers."
- So we are roughly two (2) years into this five (5) year projection, so I want to report on how we are doing.

Table 1. Incarcerated Offenders: In July of 2014, prior to JRI, a total of 13.9% (N=1,131) of Idaho's prison population were serving on a retained jurisdiction (rider) sentence. Between July 2014 and July 2016, the number of riders increased by an average of 32 offenders per year. From July 2016 to now (January 1, 2017), the number of riders

increased by 131 offenders, a 27.6% increase. As of January 1, 2017, 17.3% of incarcerated offenders were serving a rider.

Table 1. Incarcerated Offenders

INCARCERATED	Termer population	Rider population	Parole Violator population	Total prison population	% Riders (riders/total prison population)
July 1, 2014; pre-JRI	6,579	1,131	410	8,120	13.9%
July 1, 2015	6,566	1,153	443	8,162	14.1%
July 1, 2016	6,105	1,134	474	7,713	14.7%
January 1, 2017; current	6,020	1,385	605	8,010	17.3%

Table 2. Community Offenders in All Districts: In July of 2014, prior to JRI, a total of 77.8% (N=10,680) of Idaho's community population were on probation. Between July 2014 and July 2015, the number of probationers increased by 88 offenders, and experienced an even larger increase (405 offenders) between July 2015 and July 2016. From July 2016 to January 1, 2017, the number of probationers has remained relatively steady, decreasing less than one percent. As of January 1, 2017, 73.1% of the community population were probationers, a decrease from July 2014.

Table 2. Community Offenders in All Districts

ALL DISTRICTS	Statewide: Probation population	Statewide: Parole population	Statewide: community population	% Probationers (probation/statewide: community population)
July 1, 2014; pre-JRI	10,680	3,056	13,736	77.8%
July 1, 2015	10,768	3,417	14,185	75.9%
July 1, 2016	11,173	4,168	15,341	72.8%
January 1, 2017; current	11,089	4,077	15,166	73.1%

Note: Counts include the Limited Supervision Unit Offenders (LSU), a specialized caseload for low-risk offenders.

- Total prison population is down by 110 inmates as of Jan. 1, 2017
- Termer population is down by 559 inmates as of Jan. 1, 2017
- However, Rider Population (254) and Parole Violator (195) population has increased
- Probation increases by 409
- I believe based upon my personal observations as well as those of colleagues with whom I have discussed this trend that this increase in rider and parole violator populations to be the result of an increased number of moderate and risk offenders being supervised in our

communities who are not receiving resources necessary for them to be successful i.e probation oversight, behavioral health services.

- The recent 2017 Annual Community GAP Analysis prepared by the IDOC reflects that “only 7.9% of moderate and high risk probationers and parolees with an estimated mental health treatment need received services from IDHW. This is certainly consistent with my observations as I meet with probationers who appear before me on probation violations.
- My understanding is that the Director of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare is seeking an 11 million dollar appropriation to serve the probation and parole population. The Judiciary is supportive of this reinvestment of monies into this community. We believe it will decrease the # of people who are caught up in this revolving door syndrome by addressing their mental health and behavioral health needs.
- It will increase the Judiciary’s confidence that moderate and high risk offenders will get the services they need while in the community.
- Similarly, the Judiciary supports IDOC’s request for 25 additional probation officers as mentioned by Chief Justice Burdick in his State of Judiciary Address. This allow for better and more intensive oversight and supervision of probationers and parolees.
- Again, thank you for this opportunity today to appear in front of this committee.
- I will stand for questions, if any.